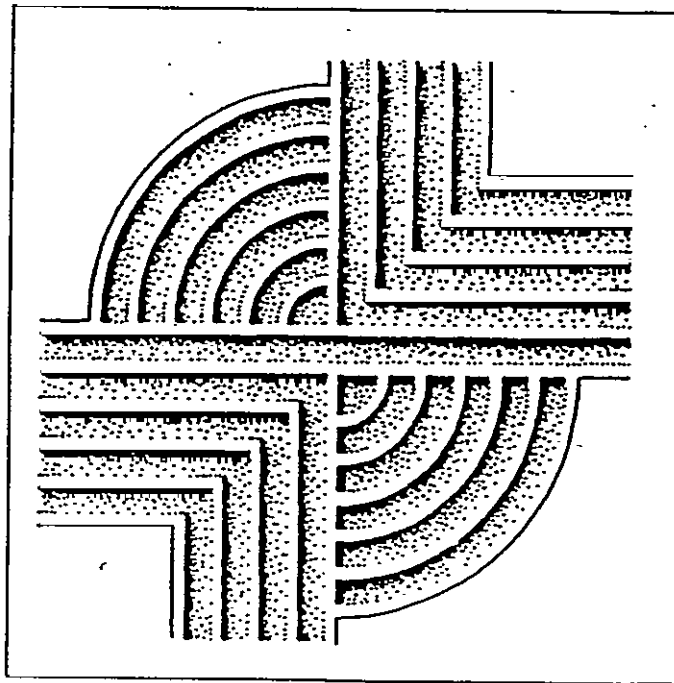


MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING CONDUCTED AT 38CH873, LONGPOINT PHASE 1 DEVELOPMENT TRACT, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 13

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING
CONDUCTED AT 38CH873, LONGPOINT PHASE 1
DEVELOPMENT TRACT, CHARLESTON COUNTY

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Chicora Research Contribution 13

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Introduction

This investigation was directed by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. David W. Ames, developer of the 275 acre (highland) Longpoint tract. This tract is situated about 7.5 miles northeast of Charleston and about 1.0 mile northeast of the small Snowden community in Charleston County (Figure 1). A previous study of the Phase 1 50 acre tract should be consulted for additional information on the proposed development project, the effective environment, and a summary of the project area (Trinkley 1986).

Site 38CH873 is situated about 100 feet east of Needlerush Road at the southern edge of the Phase 1 tract and, at the time of the original survey, appeared to represent a domestic site of the late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century. Based on a series of 18 shovel tests the site was estimated to be about 100 feet north-south by 50 feet east-west, for a total of 5000 square feet. The site was situated in an area of fairly open hardwood forest, immediately north of a proposed development road. About 80% of the site appeared to be on a lot, while the remaining 20% is within the right of way of the proposed road (Figure 2).

Based on the collection obtained during the initial survey, it was suggested that the site probably dated from 1880 to 1920 and that it represented a wooden domestic structure with a brick chimney or piers. The site was noted to be situated adjacent to a previously cleared field and I suggested that it might represent a black tenant occupation from the Royall postbellum plantation, a period of reduced economic activity.

In a November 6, 1986 letter Mr. Charles Lee, State Historic Preservation Officer, stated that, "[i]n our opinion, limited testing of 38CH873 is necessary for a final Register assessment of either eligible or not eligible as a portion of the site will be affected by the development project." The archaeological testing discussed in this summary was undertaken as a result of the SHPO's opinion, with the purpose of obtaining sufficient additional information on the site to allow a determination of eligibility. This summary is intended to provide a synopsis of the archaeological testing of previously identified site 38CH873; it is not intended to be a final report. This site will be discussed in more detail in the final report for the entire 275 acre tract.

The research design was essentially explorative, that is, it was directed toward answering certain fundamental questions such as

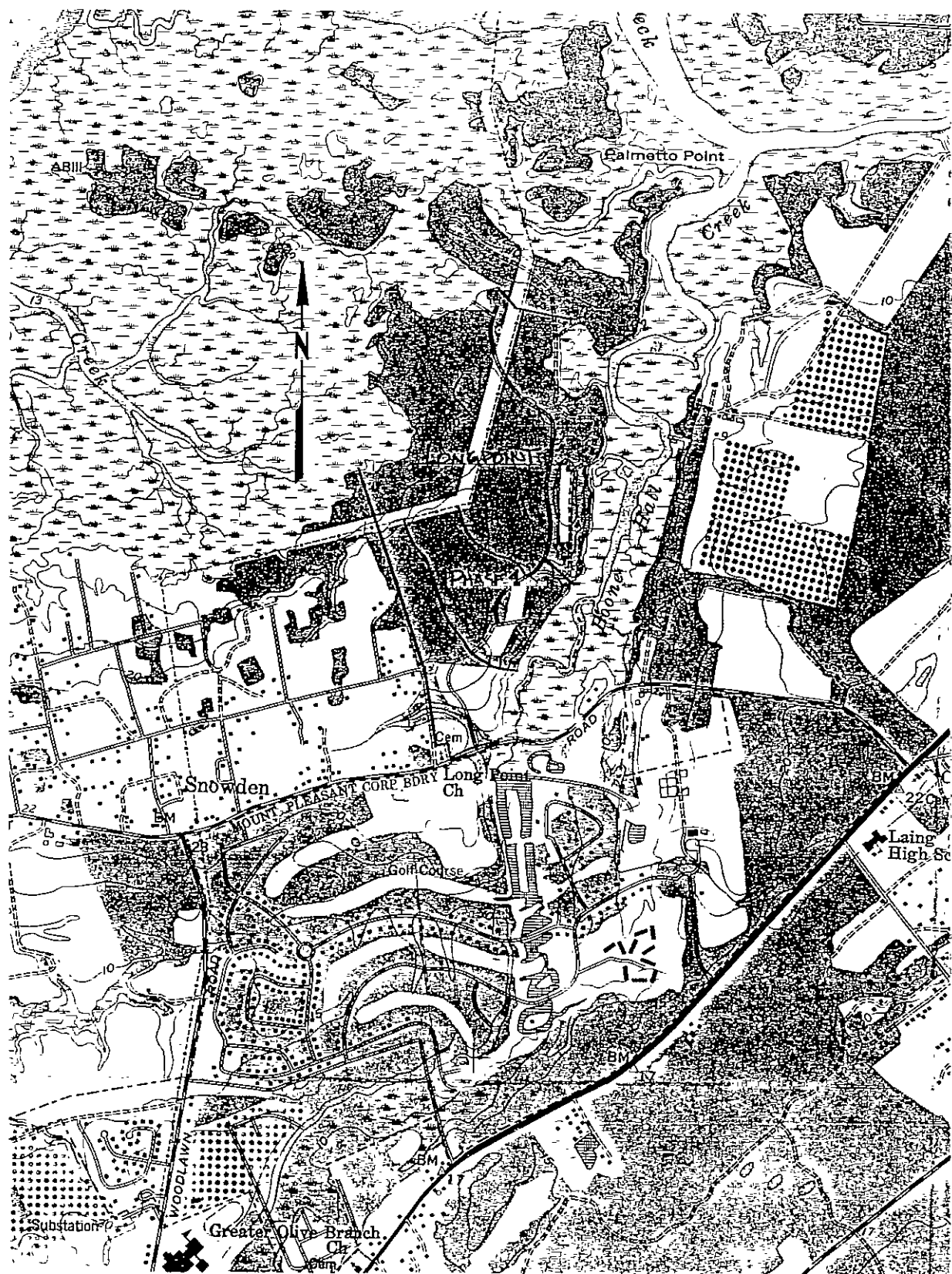


Figure 1. A portion of the Fort Moultrie 7.5' USGS topographic map showing the Longpoint development tract and the Phase 1 survey area.

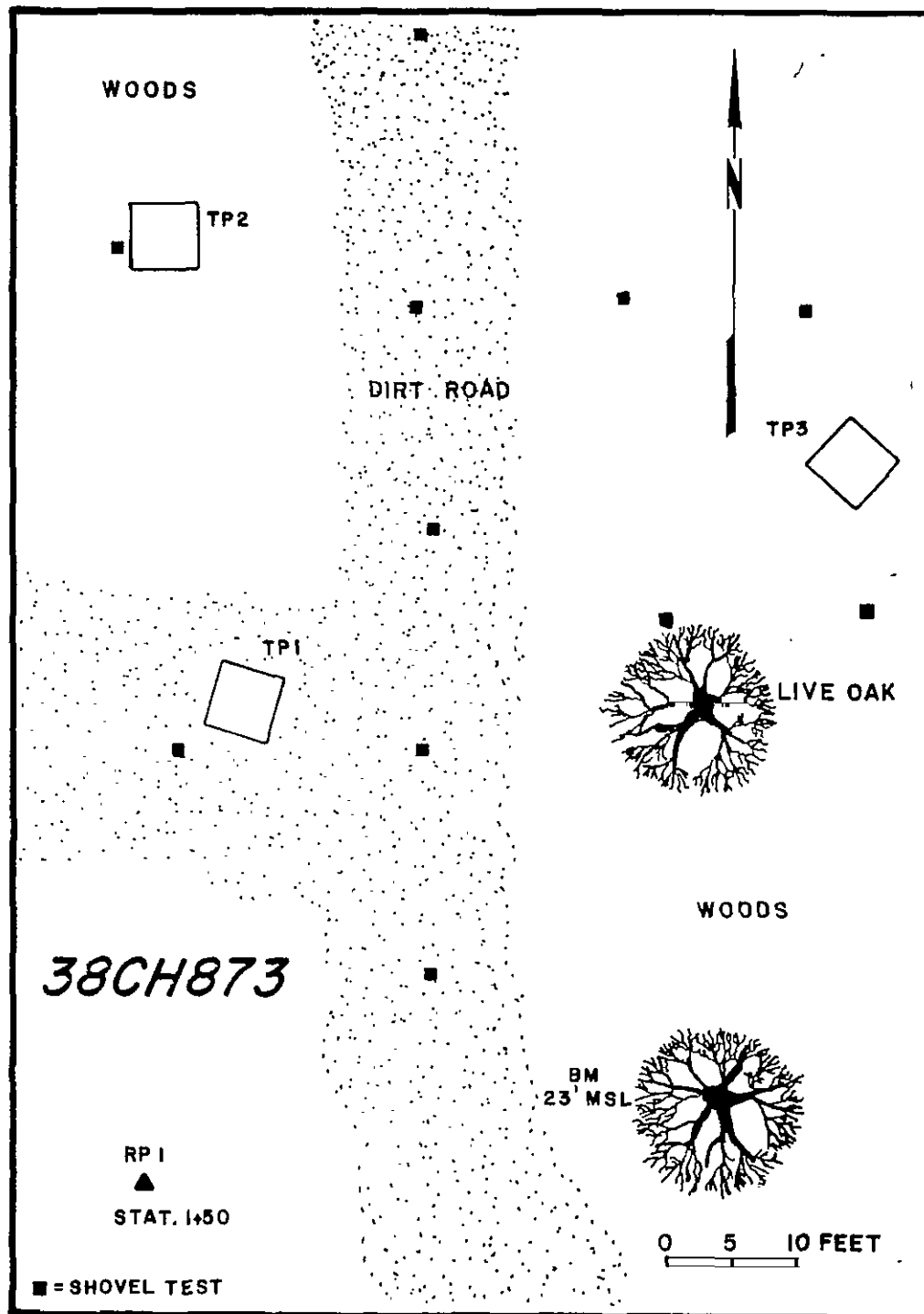


Figure 2. Site 38CH873, showing shovel tests and excavation units.

does the site possess any integrity, what is the range of artifacts present, and what can an archaeological study reveal concerning the site's inhabitants? While portions of this research are guided by the need to determine site eligibility, other aspects are oriented toward obtaining additional information on what appears to be a dwelling of low-status individuals. Little previous research has been conducted on this topic in the Charleston area, although notable exceptions are the work of Brockington et al. (1985) at several sites on the Mark Clark Expressway and the excavations at a probable "tenant" site by The Charleston Museum and Carolina Archaeological Services, also on the Mark Clark Expressway.

Field Methods

Because the additional work at 38CH873 was directed not only at obtaining a larger, and hopefully more diversified, collection of artifacts, but also toward identifying (and interpreting) in situ remains and features, 5-foot square excavation units were selected for the study. Each unit was tied into the proposed road station 1+50 (Reference Point [RP] 1). The choice to use bearing and distance rather than a formal grid was made to minimize site preparation time. Because the site was wooded, laying out a grid would have been a relatively labor intensive activity. Vertical control was maintained through the use of a pre-existing bench mark, established by Thomas and Hutton Engineering Company in a large oak tree to the side of the proposed road. Elevations are expressed as feet above mean sea level (MSL) as determined by reference to the bench mark (which has an elevation of 23.00 feet MSL). The use of these horizontal and vertical controls ensures that the location of the excavated test pits may be reconstructed if necessary.

Excavation proceeded by hand with all soil screened through 1/4-inch mesh. Screen loads were sorted in the field with all materials from a single provenience bagged together. All brick, mortar, and shell was collected and retained.

Stratigraphy throughout the site area was fairly simple and generally uniform. Zone 1 consists of a brown sand which varied from .41 and .48 foot in Test Pits (TPs) 1 and 2 to .86 foot in TP 3. This zone grades into a yellow to tan subsoil. Only in TP 1 was another soil zone, termed Zone 2, observed. In this unit there was .13 foot of heavily mottled tan sand which graded into the subsoil. Artifacts were largely confined to Zone 1 and Zone 2 appears to be the result of traffic and leaching -- it was not found elsewhere during these excavations or during the previous shovel tests.

Each unit was troweled, photographed (in B/W print and color slide film), and plotted at the base of the deepest excavation level. Plot sheets are at a horizontal scale of 1 inch - 2 feet and an exaggerated vertical scale of 1 inch - 1 foot. All units were backfilled prior to leaving the site.

These excavations were conducted by the author and Ms. Debi Hacker on Saturday, November 15, 1986. A total of 16 person hours were expended at the site and the three 5-foot squares excavated (a 1.5% sample of the site universe) yielded a total of 47 cubic feet of soil. The investigations were constrained by intermittent rain and moist sand which was difficult to sift.

Test Pit 1 is situated 35 to 40 feet N15°E of Reference Point (RP) 1, with the unit laid out to the west. The square is within the proposed road right of way at the southern site edge. Zone 1 consists of a brown sand which appears to be a plowzone. There is an indistinct boundary between the upper zone and the lower zone of mottled tan sand, which in turn grades into a yellow sand subsoil. Plowscars are indistinct, but present at the base of Zone 2. No features were noted at the base of Zone 2 and the mottling may be caused by the roadbed in which the unit is located.

Test Pit 2 is situated 70 to 75 feet N1°W of RP 1 with the unit laid out to the east. This pit was placed to investigate the right of way edge at the western site periphery. Zone 1 consists of a brown plowzone overlying a yellow sand subsoil. Again plowscars are indistinct, which suggests a light cultivation, probably by a mule or horse drawn plow. No features were identified.

Test Pit 3 is laid out 75 to 80 feet N42°E of RP 1 with the unit positioned to the right of this sight line. The unit was placed to investigate the area north of the oak trees in the site core. Based on the line of oaks and the dirt bank, this unit was suspected, correctly, to be outside the plowed area. Zone 1 was much thicker in this unit, .86 foot in depth, and was a gray humic sand with abundant roots. The subsoil is a yellow sand. No features were encountered.

Laboratory Methods

The cleaning of artifacts was conducted in Charleston on November 16, 1986. Cataloging is provisional, but all materials have been accepted for curation at The Charleston Museum. Artifact conservation has begun on the ferrous and cupreous artifacts as required by professional curation procedures.

Analysis of the collections followed professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains. Prehistoric ceramics were classified using common coastal South Carolina types (Trinkley 1983). The temporal, cultural, and typological classification of the historic remains followed Noel Hume (1970), Miller (1980), Price (1970), and South (1977).

Results

The excavations and shovel tests have yielded 385 historic artifacts (Table 1), six fragments of UID mammal bone, 16 prehistoric sherds, and collections of brick and oyster shells. The historic

	ST	TP1	TP2	TP3	Total	
KITCHEN						
whiteware, undec	3	2	1	2	8	
semi-porc., undec	1				1	
semi-porc., decal	1				1	
lead glazed slipware		1	1		2	
clear bottle glass	6	4	49	31	90	
manganese bottle glass		2	1		3	
lt. green bottle glass		1	10	2	13	
emerald green bottle glass		3			3	
brown bottle glass	1		20		21	
milk glass			17		17	
aqua bottle glass	5		20		25	
tin can frags				1	1	
					<u>185</u>	48.1%
ARCHITECTURAL						
window glass	10	8	100		118	
wire nails	10		3	1	14	
machine cut nails	3	4	4	1	12	
UID nails	8	16	5	3	32	
spike	1				1	
					<u>177</u>	45.9%
FURNITURE						
chimney glass	2	4	3		9	
					<u>9</u>	2.3%
ARMS						
shotgun shell	1				1	
					<u>1</u>	0.3%
CLOTHING						
plastic hook		1			1	
					<u>1</u>	0.3%
TOBACCO PIPE						
kaolin pipe bowl	1	1			2	
kaolin pipe stem 4/64"		1			1	
					<u>3</u>	0.8%
ACTIVITIES						
red signal lamp glass		1			1	
lead fishing weight			1		1	
carriage bolts			1	1	2	
UID iron (poss. harness)			1		1	
UID brass				1	1	
terracotta pipe frags				2	2	
marble (w/Rockingham glaze)				1	1	
					<u>9</u>	2.3%
TOTAL					385	

Table 1. Historic artifacts recovered from 38CH873.

artifacts allow dating within only broad perimeters, although taken as a whole the collection is primarily representative of the early twentieth century. The decalcomania ceramic provides a TPQ of 1901 (Bartovics 1978). As previously discussed (Trinkley 1986), one aqua soda bottle (containing "Caro-Cola") was manufactured by the American Glass Works and provides a tentative TPQ of 1880 (Toulouse 1971:43). A brown bottle fragment was produced by the Illinois Glass Company between 1916 and 1929 (Toulouse 1971:264) and an aqua "Ball" canning jar fragment post-dates 1890 (Toulouse 1977:5). The presence of amethyst glass provides a date range of 1880 to 1925 and a three-piece mold bottle fragment would have been popular from 1810 to 1890 (Newman 1970). The almost equal numbers of machine cut and wire nails suggests a date range similar to these other artifacts.

The site, based on the artifact pattern analysis (South 1977; see Table 1) is definitely domestic, although it does not resemble the Revised Carolina Artifact Pattern (Garrow 1982; South 1977) as first thought (Trinkley 1986). Rather, it most closely resembles the Piedmont Tenant/Yeoman Farmer Artifact Pattern as proposed by Drucker et al. (1984). While I take no position on the appropriateness or viability of this pattern, its present range seems to reduce its heuristic value (for example, while no ranges are offered by Drucker et al. [1984], they may be partially reconstructed for the Kitchen and Architectural Groups -- 40.0 to 61.2% and 35.8 to 56.3% respectively). Site 38CH873 presents a pattern somewhat similar to that encountered by Brockington et al. (1985:157) at 38CH332 on the Mark Clark Expressway. The archaeological studies at 38CH332 revealed that the site, "generated as a result of primary domestic occupation," dated from the last quarter of the nineteenth century and presumably resulted from a tenant occupation. Brockington et al., however, caution that the site has been so altered that "the artifact pattern has been rendered useless for further comparisons" (Brockington et al. 1985:235). It is suggested that while the Longpoint site, 38CH873, has an artifact density almost six times as great as 38CH332 ($7.1/\text{ft}^3$ compared to $1.3/\text{ft}^3$), ceramics are considerably more common at 38CH332 (where they account for 8.0% of the collection) than at 38CH873 (where they account for only 3.1% of the collection). This decrease in ceramics may be related to the increased availability and decreased cost of glassware in the early twentieth century.

The collection of prehistoric sherds is too small ($N=16$) to allow any meaningful conclusions. All of the sherds are small (most are under 1-inch in diameter) and undecorated. Several are similar in paste and surface finish to historic period Catawba (Wheaton et al. 1983), while several others are somewhat similar in paste to Pee Dee (Reid 1967).

Site Significance and Recommendations

It is generally accepted that "the significance of an archaeological site is based on the potential of the site to contribute

to the scientific or humanistic understanding of the past" (Bense et al. 1986:60). If a site exhibits integrity it is likely that it may address at least some research questions and contribute information, but to be eligible the contribution should be significant.

The archaeological testing conducted at 38CH873 revealed the remains to most likely represent a low status domestic site of the very late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, although a minor prehistoric component is also present. The site has failed to reveal any in situ remains (such as architectural features) or features (such as pits or post holes). A portion of the site is found within a previously plowed field and the remainder is within the upper foot of a humic A soil horizon. Further complicating site interpretation and study is the use of a portion of the site as a recent garbage dump (which has perhaps contributed non-domestic refuse, or refuse from other domestic sites, to this archaeological pattern).

Although sites such as 38CH873, in the opinion of the author, are significant to a complete understanding of past lifeways and although 38CH873 represents a period in the history of the Longpoint tract (Royall Plantation) about which we have few data, the site does not appear to possess the integrity necessary to make a significant contribution to archaeology or history. Consequently, it is the opinion of the author that the site is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and that no further work at the site is warranted.

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